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directing light along an illumination beam path through a main objective of the microscope or in a region of a main objective of said microscope, and a plurality of optical components in the illumination beam path, by providing a mechanism for moving at least one of the optical components so that a darkening occurs at the subject because of the movement of the optical component. This object is also achieved by a related method comprising the step of moving at least one of the plurality of optical components so that a darkening occurs at the subject because the movement of the optical component causes light to arrive at the subject in a more diffuse or defocused fashion.

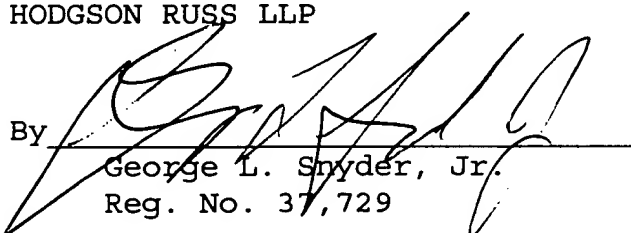
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[0016] An exemplary embodiment of the invention is presented in the drawings and the description pertaining to the Figures, and the appended claims define improvements according to the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATED: July 23, 2002